

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Then they sent me to advanced radio school - a radio navigation school at Reno, Nevada. And I graduated in the last class of that. And they offered me a promotion to tech sergeant and a regular trip between California and Hawaii; which sounded pretty good. But I said, "Or, a discharge." And I said, "Well, what kind of a plane are we in?" And they said, "A C-46." Well I had had some previous mishaps with a C-46 and I didn't like them - I didn't trust them. And I said [thought], "And there was an awful lot of water between California and Hawaii," and I decided, "No, I'll take the discharge." So, they gave me the ... told me to go down to California - Barstow, California. There was a base down there. Anyway, I got discharged down in southern California, [and] I hitchhiked home. [Chuckle]

**Janis Kozlowski:** And that was after the war was over?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Yeah, the war was finished then. They had dropped the atomic bomb before I went back to Scott Field the second time, or right at that time. Anyway, they had a big bonfire right after I left to go to Reno, Nevada ... to celebrate the dropping of the atomic bomb. And then I had this month of radio school. And then they offered me the discharge. So ... I went home.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Did you do anything that involved radios when you got out of the service?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** No.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Well, what did you end up doing for a profession?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** I went back to General Motors as a draftsman. And then the reason of me being the first one to volunteer from there; they had tried to get me to stay, they offered me deferments for the whole war, I wouldn't have to go. But I said, "That's not what I had planned." [Chuckle] Anyway, they were still mad at me for volunteering. And so I was having a hard time at General Motors. But, I got discharged just in time for the big General Motor's strike. It was six months, where the only income I had was this [Chuckle] "Fifty-two twenty club," they called it - \$20 a week for fifty-two weeks. And we had a rough time getting along on that amount of money. Anyway, the strike finally ended and nobody would hire me because, they said, "Well, you'll go back to General Motors as soon as the strike is over." So, I couldn't get a job anywhere. Anyway, I went back and it didn't work out. After seven years, I finally was able to quit, and I went to Ford, and I had a very happy time at Ford. I was there about a year and got promoted to design and development engineer on the Edsel. [Laugh]

**Janis Kozlowski:** Sounds like you made a good choice there, in moving.

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** The difference between Ford and General Motors, to me, was at General Motors, everything I did was wrong until I proved it right. And at Ford everything was right until I was proven wrong. And that does make an awfully big difference.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah, I bet.

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** And I happily was hired into the appropriate department at Ford. And several of the guys' right around me, become vice-presidents. And almost everybody in there, with the exception of one or two, was eventually promoted to engineer from draftsmen. But I was one of the early ones. When Edsel was formed, I was the sixth guy into the Edsel department. And then I was the sixth guy left [Chuckle] at the end.